

On April 5, 1968, Mrs. HELEN WYNNE, who operates a rooming house at 390 1/2 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, which address she stated is known to some people as the Wynne Hotel, furnished the following information to Lieutenant J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, and SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON:

Since she merely operates a rooming house, she does not maintain any records of her guests. However, she is personally acquainted with GENE CRAWFORD, who has stayed at her rooming house perhaps four or five times in the past and whose father was formerly a permanent guest at her rooming house. As best she can recall, GENE CRAWFORD first appeared at her rooming house around 2:00 p.m., April 4, 1968. At the time he checked in, she cannot recall his having any luggage except a small brief case or attache case. She is certain that he had no large luggage or large package of any kind. She cannot recall seeing a radio or a cardboard box which he may have had with him. She is under the impression that he spent most of the afternoon in his room. She does not know when he went out to eat. She does distinctly recall, however, that sometime during the afternoon CRAWFORD told her that he was very tired and sleepy, that he had some telephone calls to make around 6:00 p.m., and requested her to wake him about 5:50 p.m. She would estimate that it was perhaps 3:30 p.m. when he made this request of her. In accordance with

In accordance with his request, he was awakened about 5:50 p.m. and he went out. She does not know where he went or what time he returned.

Sometime after she learned that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING had been shot, she recalls that CRAWFORD was in his room and had opened the door and was talking with some of the other roomers about what had occurred. She stated that she considered this unusual since ordinarily he has very little to say to anyone but usually keeps to his room.

Mrs. WYNNE pointed out that she does not have a pay telephone at her rooming house. She stated that if CRAWFORD had asked her for the use of her telephone in her own apartment, she would have let him use it but he did not ask to use her telephone, although he had specifically mentioned that the reason he wanted

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to get up was in order to make some telephone calls.

She stated that she is certain that he remained in his room on the night of April 4, 1968, after the time she recalls his talking with some other roomers during a radio broadcast concerning the shooting of Dr. KING. She stated that he left on the morning of April 5, 1968.

Mrs. WYNNE stated that she was very fond of CRAWFORD's father, who is now deceased, and as a result of her fondness for his father, she has also felt very kindly toward GENE CRAWFORD. She stated that he never drinks, smokes or curses, or causes any problem, but is always neat, clean, and very much of a gentleman. She stated that she knows little or nothing concerning his family life, employment or activities, and CRAWFORD made no comment of any kind to her to indicate why he was in Memphis or where he was going when he checked into her rooming house.

Mrs. WYNNE stated that she has absolutely no reason to suspect that WYNNE is involved in any kind of trouble or that he had anything to do with the shooting of Dr. KING or that he was in a position to have any knowledge concerning the shooting of Dr. KING. She only knows that he was awakened around 5:50 p.m., following which he left the rooming house, ostensibly to make some telephone calls.

Mrs. WYNNE advised that she could furnish no other information which might be of assistance in connection with the shooting of Dr. KING. She stated that she did not hear any shots around 6:00 p.m. on April 4, 1968, and she knew nothing about any shooting until after she had heard the police sirens and heard news broadcasts on television concerning the shooting. She stated that there were no suspicious guests in her rooming house and she has not seen or heard anything which she thinks would be of assistance.

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

DATE: 4/10/68

FROM : SA FRANKLIN L. JOHNSON

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CRRE: GENE PEARSON CRAWFORD
32-B WESTWOOD GARDENS
JACKSON, TENNESSEE

Submitted herewith are the following:

(1) An insert reflecting that CRAWFORD was stopped as a general suspect by the police on the morning of 4/5/68;

(2) FD-302 showing interview with CRAWFORD.

In substance, according to Lt. J. D. HAMBY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis Police Department, some of the employees in Jim's Restaurant, located just north of Canipe's Amusement Company, 424 South Main, pointed out CRAWFORD as a stranger who was eating sausage, eggs, and iced lemonade in that restaurant sometime prior to the shooting on 4/4/68 and uniformed officers at the scene referred CRAWFORD to Lt. HAMBY for interview. Lt. HAMBY stated that CRAWFORD had been stopped on the street by uniformed officers, at which time he was carrying an attache type case and a cardboard box containing a new portable radio.

As will be noted from the FD-302 of CRAWFORD, his presence near the scene around the time of the shooting

[REDACTED] indicated the desirability of his being questioned as a general suspect. After a brief interview at the scene, Lt. HAMBY had him taken to the headquarters for further interview, and he was released, the Police Department feeling that he did not meet the description available concerning the Unsub, and his

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2-to accompany FD-302 stencil (TO BE DESTROYED)

FLJ:wp

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presence in a rooming house other than the one from which the shots were made, having been established.

ACTION:

As of the present time, it is not recommended that any further action be taken with respect to CRAWFORD with the exception of the fact that his name and Navy Serial No. will be furnished to case agent in order to have CRAWFORD's prints compared with those available in this case as one more step in eliminating him as a suspect. In sending in names and identifying data concerning general suspects, his name should be included, it being noted that he is a white male, born 10/2/27 at Jackson, Tennessee, who stated that he served twice in the Navy under Navy Serial No. [REDACTED]